

Babies, babies, babies Congratulations to these LPD pastors for the new additions in their homes: **Chad and Taralyn Eddy (Access Church Plant, Aldergrove)** are excited to have baby boy #3 in their family. Chase joined the family October 20. On October 7, **Jon and Ang Thiessen (Johnston Heights Church, Surrey)** welcomed their daughter Shiloh. She is a wonderful playmate for her brother Jack. And on December 4, **Jake and Laura Hron (Central EFC, Courtenay)** were delighted with their first child, Isaiah. May the Lord bless your families!

Christmas outreaches abounded throughout the Lower Mainland. **Johnston Heights Church** had its annual dramatic musical outreach. This year's production was "**Christmas Post.**" Other churches were involved in everything from Nativity Scenes to Candlelight Services. May God use each of these in the lives of those who need the 'good news of great joy'.

Burnaby Chinese EFC is nearing the completion of their building program and hope to dedicate their renovated and enlarged facility in late February or early March. We are thankful for God's provision, and know that this building will be put to good use in God's service.



Pastor Bruce Wong at BCEFC

**Want to know more?**

Please call or email us at our office to be added to the "Friends of the LPD" email newsletters, and be kept up to date on all the news and prayer requests in our district!

**Please remember our District's need in your church budgets and giving.** It is our desire to invest Endowment Funds to support your local churches in church planting and ministry expansion and not to fund District operational expenses. **Thank you!**

- Please pray for our **LPD Board** as we are committed to encourage and resource our growing family of churches to reflect Jesus Christ.

**Board members are:**

- Tom Hilchie - Island Link
- Evans Hundermark - Church Planting
- Joshua Lok - Chinese Church Liaison
- Craig Murdoch - Innovative Ministries Liaison
- Rob Stewart - Superintendent
- Ken Strom - Member at Large
- David Guillaume - Secretary
- Bob Wilson - Chairman

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# Lower S'Pacifc

News from your Lower Pacific District Family  
January, 2011

**By God's grace, we are committed to encourage and resource our growing family of churches to reflect Jesus Christ.**

**Happy New Year!**

How many times have you greeted people in such a manner over the past weeks? While we wish the best for our family and friends, we may have little influence on whether their year is "happy" or not.

As you may know, my own family experienced both joy and grief last year. We began the year with the birth of our granddaughter Erin, and what a joy she is to us all! Just two weeks later, Karen's dad passed away, and we travelled to Alberta for the funeral. On May 1st, our third son, Daniel was married, and we shared the joy of Dan and Sara, as they began their life together. On July 20th, my younger brother, Bruce passed away. I was with him when he passed into the Lord's presence. I spoke at his funeral, and I conducted his interment. 2010 was a year to remember!

I cannot promise you a, "Happy New Year," but I can promise you a joyous New Year—in Christ, as in James 1:1-3. Life can and does bring many changes, and the longer I live, the more I appreciate the constancy of our hope, faith and calling in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What is foundational to your local church? Is it the traditions, hymns, people or building? Is it a particular translation of the Bible? While we all have preferences, none of these are foundational. Christ Jesus is the chief cornerstone and foundation of our church, and we are committed to his Lordship, his calling and to teaching and obeying the Word of God.



Cam Taylor

If we are to be true to the Word of God, and to the calling and Lordship of Christ, what changes might your church need to make in order to be more effective for him? Change in life or in church is never easy. It can stretch us and make us feel uncomfortable. If we are not careful, it can also divide us. Change can be a matter of personal preference. Sometimes, change is made for change sake, or to follow contemporary trends. Change can also be made for the sake of others and in obedience to Christ.

At our **Lower Pacific District Conference** on March 4,5 at **Vancouver Immanuel Korean Church**, 17957 - 55 Ave. in Cloverdale, our theme is, "**Staying on Track.**" In this, we will be considering the processes of leadership and change in Christ's local, congregational churches within our district

Our speaker is Cam Taylor, of Outreach Canada. Cam has pastored for more than twenty years, and is now a resource to churches and a trainer to both coaches and leaders local churches. I hope that you can join us—please check our website for more information. <http://www.lpd-efcc.ca/>

Yours and Christ's servants,  
Rob and Karen Stewart, *lpd superintendent*

### Highlights for Prayer and Praise in the LPD:

Congratulations to **Allen and Hannah Chang (Richmond Chinese EFC, English Ministries)** who were married this fall. **Dr. John Auxier (Trinity Western Seminary)** performed the ceremony. Prior to getting married, Hannah completed her studies to become a medical doctor. May God bless you Allen and Hannah as you walk together with and serve him in the years ahead.



The 'crew' on our October cruise.

### The Pastor and Staff Cruise

took place on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. We considered the theme, 'will I survive and can I thrive in ministry? How can we maintain a healthy walk with God in the midst of serving him?' While the question may seem odd, if not ironic, many in ministry find themselves spiritually dry and will leave ministry with burnout, discouragement and even broken marriages. We know that this is not what God has called us to, yet we may find ourselves heading in this direction. This day was spent encouraging each other in our walks with God.

'Pastors and Churches – ministry as a vocation today' workshop was held on Tuesday November 16<sup>th</sup>, facilitated by **Bill Norris** (former director of personnel at TWU) and **Rob Stewart** which addressed the multifaceted relationship of vocational pastors and churches. A pastor is a pastor, an employee and a brother (or sister) in Christ. How do we keep these in balance, and how can we be proactive in maintaining healthy relationships and effective ministry? It was an evening of stimulating discussions.



Johnston Heights is pleased to welcome Phil and Laura Harris to their staff.

**Johnston Heights Church** is glad to start their new year with a new associate pastor. **Phil (Laura) Harris** will be responsible for Pastoral Care. Phil brings many years of ministry experience with a passion for evangelism.

**Rob and Karina Barber of Mission EFC** have been accepted as missionary candidates with Mission Aviation Fellowship. They will be assigned to Madagascar, where Rob will be using his training and skills as an Aircraft Maintenance Technician. Our district would like to encourage and support them as they follow the Lord in this call on their lives. For info, please email them at [barbers.rk@gmail.com](mailto:barbers.rk@gmail.com) or visit <http://www.mafc.org/>



Rob and Karina Barber joined us for the October cruise.

Recently, we have been communicating with **Pastor Sammy Kabyemera**, a church-planting pastor, who has come to Canada, along with his family, as refugees from the Congo, via Uganda. He is planting a church, **Jesus Grace International Church**, in Vancouver that targets immigrants from Africa. Please pray for them and for us, as we trust the Lord to guide us in our partnership in the gospel.



Sammy and Eva Kabyemera are planting an international church in Vancouver.

An **LPD Family Christmas Dinner** was held on Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. It was both encouraging and a lot of fun to be together. Good stories were shared of God's good work among us as well as good food and a silly gift exchange.

**Miles (Lorie) White** has been ministering as Interim Pastor at **Christ Community Church** in Ucluelet. We are very thankful for this provision, as it has provided pastoral leadership to the church while **Pastor Kevin (Chaundra) Willms** has been on disability. Please pray for the church family, for Miles, Lorie and family, and for Kevin, Chaundra and family, as Kevin hopes to return to ministry over the next two months.

**Steve and Gillian Sharpe** and **Lorne and Mary Gait** (yes, the Lorne and Mary who used to pastor in Cloverdale), and a core team of people are trusting to **plant a church, "The Rock Christian Fellowship,"** in South Nanaimo/Cedar. Please pray for this team of people, as they seek the Lord to reach people of this spiritually needy area. There is hope to launch the new church early in the New Year.

**Pastor John (Karmie) Tsang** has resigned as Associate Pastor of English Ministries at **Vancouver Chinese EFC**. John and Karmie are uncertain of their next ministry at this time, and so please remember them in prayer as they seek the Lord for their future. John and Karmie have been appreciated in their service at VCEFC, and we know that God will keep them and their children, Josiah, Hannah and Noah in his hand. Please also pray for VCEFC, as they also transition, and seek the Lord for the future. **Pastor Philip (Grace) Yung** will carry on as **Assistant Pastor of English Ministry**, and **Pastor Tom (Sandi) Ford** will be serving as **Interim Pastor of English Ministries**.

**Pastor Andrew (Jeany) Chan** has resigned as Pastor of the English Congregation at **Richmond Chinese EFC**, and will be concluding his ministry in the weeks ahead. Please pray for Andrew, Jeany and family as they transition, and for **Pastor Allen (Hannah) Chang**, who will carry on in the English Congregation ministry.